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No. 2

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2014, at 2 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2014

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our fortress, stronghold, deliverer, shield, and refuge, we have entered a new year that promises opportunities and challenges. Inspire our lawmakers to seize this season of opportunity, committing themselves to the fulfillment of Your purposes, even in the face of challenges. Keep them in the center of Your will, aligning them with Your providential wisdom and guiding them with Your words. Lord, shield them from discouragement as they persevere with integrity. Finish the good work You have begun, for You are both alpha and omega.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. I welcome back the President pro tempore and the entire staff

and look forward to our continuing work together over the next 2 weeks and to see what happens after that.

Following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will resume the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 265, S. 1845, the unemployment insurance extension.

At 3 p.m. the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Janet Yellen to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, postcloture. The time until 5:30 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled.

There will be two rollcall votes at 5:30 p.m., first on confirmation of the Yellen nomination and second on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the unemployment insurance legislation.

There could be a series of votes after that dealing with other nominations. We will keep everyone advised as to what is going on.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 2019

Mr. REID. I am told that H.R. 2019 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2019) to eliminate taxpayer financing of political party conventions and reprogram savings to provide for a 10-year pediatric research initiative through the Common Fund administered by the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings at this time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard, and the bill will be placed on the calendar.

CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM

Mr. REID. I am optimistic, cautiously optimistic, that the new year will bring a renewed spirit of cooperation to this Chamber. It is very badly needed.

Last year the Senate passed a number of momentous pieces of legislation, including comprehensive immigration, a budget agreement, and a bill to prevent workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation.

There is so much more that needs to be done and there is so much left undone. There has been never-ending obstruction during the entire 5 years that President Obama has been President of the United States.

Setting that aside for a brief moment, today we will address two pressing matters held over from last year: the nomination of Janet Yellen to be head of the Federal Reserve, and extension of unemployment benefits for 1.3 million Americans still struggling to find work. Instead of celebrating the beginning of the New Year on January 1, more than 1 million Americans, including 20,000 veterans and about 20,000 Nevadans, were left wondering how they would feed their families and make their mortgage payments while they continue to look for jobs. Frankly, most of these people aren't making mortgage payments; they are renting. They are trying to make ends meet from month to month.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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